

OIL SANDS MINING END LAND USE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT AND  
TRANSMITTAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS



**OIL SANDS MINING  
END LAND USE COMMITTEE**

These recommendations are made in reference, and subject to, the Alberta Government's  
Environmental Assessment Act.

SIGNED

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Alberta Environmental Protection

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**JANUARY 1998**

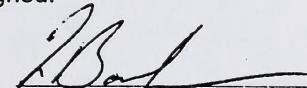
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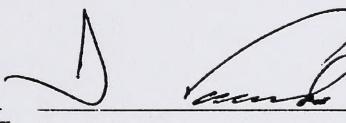
## OIL SANDS MINING END LAND USE COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT AND TRANSMITTAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations have been developed, consistent with the Committee's terms of reference, and endorsed by us as committee members for consideration by the Alberta Government, the Oil Sands Mining Industry and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

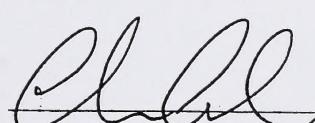
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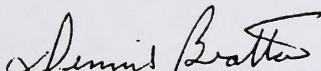
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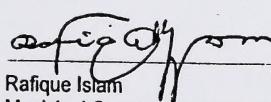
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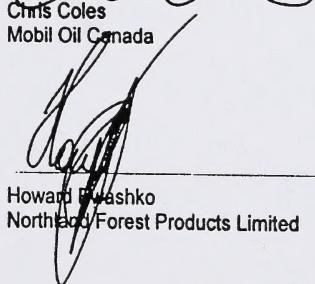
Chris Coles  
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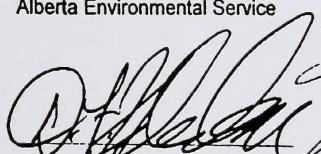
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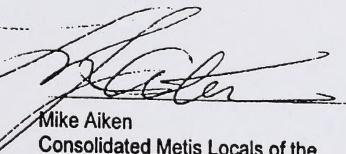
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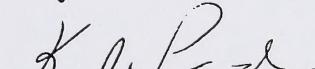
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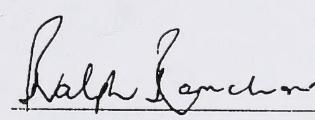
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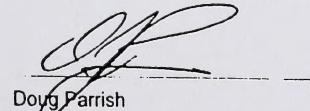
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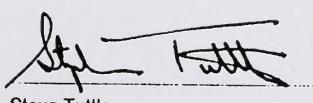
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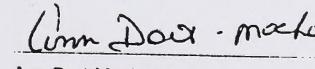
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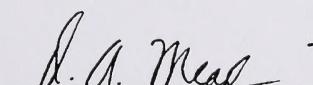
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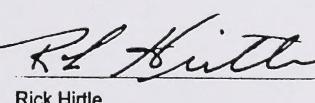
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Doug Mead  
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Rick Hirtle  
Fort McMurray Resident

## СИА ТИКЕВОГО ПЛАНТАЖА ВЪВ ВЪДРОГИИ ДИСКУСИИ ПО СЪВЪРШЕНИЕ НА СЕЛЕКЦИЯ

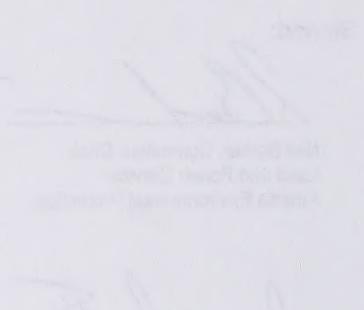
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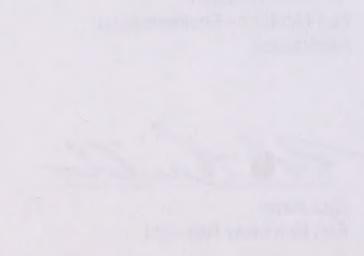
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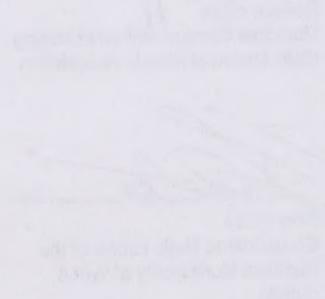
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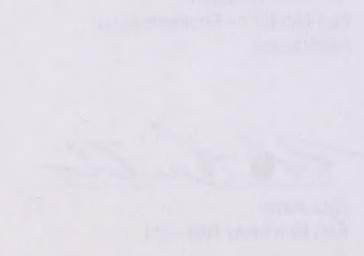
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# *Table of Contents*

Committee Endorsement and Transmittal .....	i
Acknowledgements .....	ii
Executive Summary .....	ii
<b>Recommendations .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Baseline Information/Data for End Land Use Decision Making	
- Pre-disturbance Land Capacity .....	1
Reclamation Plan Coordination .....	1
Land Use Categories and Allocation .....	2
Priority of Establishing End Land Uses .....	4
<b>Report .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Introduction .....	7
The End Land Use Committee .....	8
Public Consultation .....	12
Committee Recommendations .....	17
Use of the End Land Use Committee Recommendations .....	18
<b>Glossary of Terms .....</b>	<b>G1</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>R1</b>
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>A1</b>
1) Committee Terms of Reference .....	A1
2) Public Consultation Terms of Reference and Activities .....	A5
3) Potential End Land Use - Survey Results .....	A9
4) Draft Recommendations - Open House and Survey Results .....	A13



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Oil Sands Mining End Land Use Committee would like to acknowledge the efforts of the following people whose contributions were important to the Committee's efforts:

- Larry Brocke and Ralph Dyer, Environmental Regulatory Service, Alberta Environmental Protection
- John Folinsbee, Natural Resources Service, Alberta Environmental Protection
- David Searl, Mobil Oil Canada
- Chris Hale, Land and Forest Service, Alberta Environmental Protection
- Bonnie Evans, who attended committee meetings as an observer, representing the Fort McKay First Nation
- Grant Golosky, Bobby Park, Glen Tremblay and Elmer Herman, Metis Nation of Alberta Association representatives, from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, who attended the Committee's August 21, 1997 meeting as observers
- Khalid Jamil, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
- Dave Ealey, Alberta Environmental Protection *for providing advice and posting Committee information on the Department's Internet Page*
- Staff of Planning and Development, Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo *for mapping and population data*
- Alberta Land and Forest Service, Syncrude Canada Ltd., Suncor Energy Inc., Shell Canada Inc., and Mobil Oil Canada *for financial and logistics support*
- The people who participated in reviewing and commenting on the Committee's draft products at the various stages for public consultation throughout the end land use recommendations preparation process
- Jim Gendron, Equus Consulting Group Inc., the Committee's facilitator

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Athabasca Oil Sands Mining Activity** The Athabasca Oil Sands, located in the Fort McMurray area of Northeastern Alberta, is the Province's largest and most accessible sources of bitumen. The area encompasses more than 42,340 square kilometres, containing approximately 1 trillion barrels of bitumen. The Athabasca Oil Sands is one of four oil sands areas of the Province that are estimated to have 1.7 trillion barrels of bitumen. Much of the oil sands growth in Alberta is projected for the Fort McMurray area.

**Oil Sands Mining End Land Use Committee** In June 1996, the Director of the Land Reclamation Division, Environmental Regulatory Service, Alberta Environmental Protection, recommended that a committee be established with membership from: the Oil Sands Mining Industry; Alberta



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Environmental Protection; Alberta Energy and Utilities Board; and representatives of interests that may be directly affected by oil sands mining. The committee would make recommendations to the Government of Alberta and the Oil Sands Mining Industry to assist decision making during the regulatory review and approval process for reclamation and end land use planning. The committee focused on minimizing impacts on other users and industries (e.g., forestry) while at the same time respecting Oil Sands Mining as an important regional activity. An important product of the committee was a framework that would help the industry operators and government regulators make decisions using a common understanding of legal, social and economic factors affecting reclamation and end land use.

Committee members were recruited and began meeting in February 1997, with an identified completion date of December 20, 1997. A terms of reference was finalized that supported completion of the task within the defined schedule.

- Committee Purposes** The following purposes were identified for the committee:
- Make recommendations relating to the end land use of reclaimed lands resulting from surface mining of oil sands
  - Develop recommendations that promote an integrated, regional approach to end land use, with the goal of reducing the regulatory review cycle time and regulatory uncertainty for the Oil Sands Industry, other industry sectors, all levels of government and the public
  - Provide recommendations that can be considered during the detailed reclamation planning and regulatory review processes
  - Provide recommendations on the general timing of the initiation of end land uses
  - Consider consistency of committee recommendations with Provincial and Municipal government legislation, plans policies and programs, as well as short and long term provincial, municipal, local and corporate priorities and fiscal realities
  - Provide opportunities for the public to review, validate and verify the recommendations

- Public Consultation** A key part of the Committee's data collection and decision process was public consultation, which occurred after each of the following three steps:

- Development of the committee's terms of reference
- Development of a draft list of end land uses and a recommended set of end land use evaluation criteria
- Preparation of draft recommendations



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The final recommendations were sent out to people who had either expressed an interest in being kept informed or participating in the Committee's recommendation process, or doing both.

<b>Committee Recommendations</b>	The End Land Use Committee prepared recommendations focusing on four areas in the reclamation process:
<i>Baseline Information/Data for End Land Use Decision Making—Pre-disturbance Land Capability</i>	This includes recommendations on baseline data collection for new oil sands developments, existing oil sands operations and verification of baseline vegetation data for existing oil sands developments.
<i>Reclamation Plan Coordination</i>	Recommendations deal with the need for regional coordination of end land use decisions through a group consisting of regulatory agencies, Oil Sands Industry and key stakeholders in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, requirements for coordination between government and industry and coordination of plans and reclamation activities among industry operators.
<i>Land Use Categories and Allocation</i>	The committee provided recommendations for major land use categories: Natural and Conservation Areas; Human Development; and Forestry. As well as guidelines for implementation and allocation.
<i>Priority of Establishing End Land Uses</i>	Recognizing that development of land uses on reclaimed land will happen over long periods of time, the committee provided recommendations for setting end land use priorities.
<i>Use of the Committee Recommendations</i>	<p>The committee recommendations have been provided to government regulatory agencies and oil sands mining companies as a framework for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reclamation and end land use planning by companies</li><li>• Provincial Government regulatory review and decision making</li><li>• Preparing a strategy for ongoing monitoring and review of the committee's recommendations on oil sands mining end land use</li></ul>



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# *Recommendations*

## **1.0 BASELINE INFORMATION-DATA FOR END LAND USE DECISION MAKING— PRE-DISTURBANCE LAND CAPABILITY**

### *1.1 New Oil Sands Developments*

Follow the current regulatory requirement that baseline information, obtained through the Environmental Impact Assessment process for new oil sands operations, will establish pre-disturbance land capability and vegetation types.

### *1.2 Existing Oil Sands Operations (Syncrude Canada Ltd. and Suncor Energy Inc.)*

Use existing, historical information (i.e., AOSERP reports, air photos, Phase II Forest Inventory, trapline data) and traditional land use knowledge and practise to establish the pre-disturbance land capability. The pre-disturbance vegetation types will be converted to a format established in consultation with Alberta Environmental Protection.

### *1.3 Existing Oil Sands Operations (Syncrude Canada Ltd. and Suncor Energy Inc.) - Availability and Verification of Baseline Vegetation Data*

Make baseline data available to Alberta Environmental Protection and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo by the end of 1998 for verification and use in regional planning and management.

## **2.0 RECLAMATION PLAN COORDINATION**

### *2.1 Regional Coordination*

A regional organization should be established as an advisory body. This organization should consist of the appropriate regulatory agencies, oil sands industries and key stakeholders in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. This regional organization will provide a forum for coordination of reclamation plans to ensure:

- Continuity of land forms and watershed systems across lease boundaries
- Productive capability of the landscape, equal to or better than pre-disturbance, is returned on a regional basis
- Land uses are located in areas or on land forms that make physical, biological, social and economic sense, and productivity objectives are met regionally
- Recommendations of the Oil Sands Mining End Land Use Committee are incorporated



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## *2.2 Coordination between Industry and Regulatory Agencies*

Industry, regulatory agencies and stakeholders use existing reclamation guidelines that have been developed, and continue to work together to develop guidelines to achieve the recommended end land uses (for example, working groups for soils, vegetation, wetlands and traditional land use).

## *2.3 Evidence of Coordination*

Adjacent oil sands operators must show evidence of reclamation plan coordination to obtain approval under Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.

# **3.0 LAND USE CATEGORIES AND ALLOCATION**

## *3.1 Major Land Use Categories*

- 3.1.1 Each of the three major land use categories of natural and conservation areas, human development and forestry will accommodate associated multiple land uses. Over time, as new or unique associated land uses are identified, they may be considered subject to consultation with Alberta Environmental Protection, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and all stakeholders in the Region.
- 3.1.2 Reclamation should ensure the evolution of productive natural ecosystems with the objective of re-establishing a diversity and abundance of wildlife habitat types and qualities consistent with pre-disturbance levels. Oil sands reclamation shall comply with the wildlife objectives of the Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan. Relevant objectives of the Plan, including wildlife habitat and population objectives for black bear, deer, moose, bird game and furbearers, shall be incorporated into all reclamation planning.
- 3.1.3 Pre-disturbance fish bearing capability will be reestablished.

## *3.2 Natural and Conservation Areas (includes areas that support forest, wetlands, water bodies, bogs, fens, regional drainage patterns, lakes, shrub lands, transitional vegetation and riparian areas)*

- 3.2.1 Natural Areas are an integral part of oil sands mining reclamation and are important to ensure biodiversity is maintained. A portion of reclaimed land will be set aside for development of sustainable, natural ecosystems, with no planned land or vegetation re-disturbance.
- 3.2.2 Reclaimed lands for natural and conservation areas will be established with consideration of the following:
  - Biodiversity



- 
- Aesthetics (attractive views)
  - Traditional land uses
  - General community hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering of plants

3.2.3 Additional associated end land use options deemed acceptable in natural and conservation areas:

- Wildlife sanctuaries and management areas
- Extensive recreation

3.3 *Human Development (includes areas of concentrated human activity and active management of the landscape)*

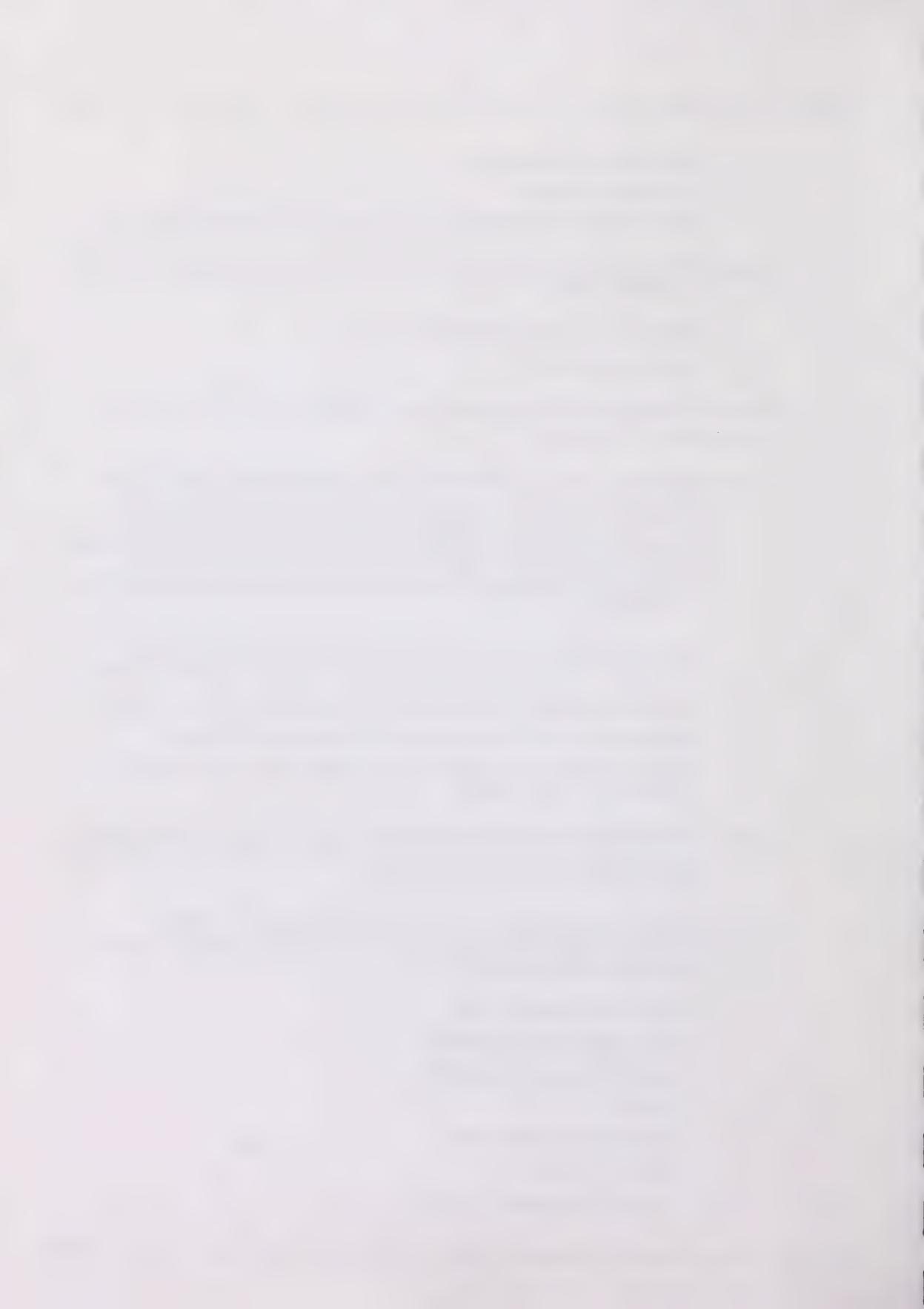
3.3.1 In support of Municipal Development Plans, each oil sands operation may consider within their proposed reclamation plans, reclaiming part of the disturbed area for uses such as agricultural, residential, commercial and recreational development. These land use proposals will be assessed through the appropriate approval processes, including Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) reclamation approval process, based on the following:

- Consistency with current government (municipal, provincial, federal) legislation, regulations, plans and policies, or an appropriate amendment
- Physical feasibility (i.e., climate, soil, drainage, potential for subsidence)
- Acceptance of ongoing responsibility to maintain intended use
- Social, cultural and economic value to communities of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

3.3.2 Alberta Environmental Protection and the Oil Sands Industry must establish a clear process for reclamation certification, lease termination and re-leasing of reclaimed land for uses in this category.

3.3.3 Reclaimed land identified for agricultural, commercial and extensive recreational purposes can also include the following uses, subject to the conditions in recommendation 3.3.1:

- Reclamation research sites
- Infrastructure for transportation
- Intensive food crop production
- Grazing
- Industrial development sites
- Intensive recreation
- Orchards for tree seed production



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*3.4 Forestry (a variety of land uses occur within the forested area throughout the various growth stages. This category is managed primarily for the production of commercial timber.)*

- 3.4.1 Oil sands operations will return forested areas to a productivity equal to or better than pre-disturbance levels, with at least an equal land area. To maintain biodiversity, the forested areas will be planted to a similar species mix as existed at pre-disturbance. These forest stands are to be developed in contiguous blocks as appropriate for efficient forestry operation.*
- 3.4.2 In view of the future potential social and economic value of forestry, consideration may be given to increasing the forest harvest potential beyond pre-disturbance levels. The level would be determined by the regional coordination organization proposed in Recommendation 2.1.*
- 3.4.3 Lands reclaimed for forestry will be established with consideration of the following:*
  - Biodiversity*
  - Aesthetics (attractive views)*
  - Traditional land uses*
  - General community hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering of plants*
- 3.4.4 Additional associated land use options acceptable for forested lands include:*
  - Extensive recreation*
  - Forest research sites*

## **4.0 PRIORITY OF ESTABLISHING END LAND USES**

### *4.1 Establishment of Land Uses*

Land reclamation and the establishment of end land uses will be carried out on a progressive basis with a minimum amount of elapsed time from disturbance to completion of reclamation.

### *4.2 Reestablishment of Land Uses after Reclamation*

Where oil sands mining has displaced pre-disturbance land uses, priority will be given to reestablishment of these land uses subject to advice of the regional organization proposed in recommendation 2.1.

### *4.3 Impact of the Loss of Productive Forest Lands*

Alberta Environmental Protection, Forestry Industry, Oil Sands Industry and regional stakeholders will work to determine and understand the impact of the loss of



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productive forest lands. This includes an assessment of the impact of the loss of productive forest lands on Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) from oil sands mining and identification of mitigative measures to minimize the impact on the forest industry.

#### *4.4 Replacement of Traditional Aboriginal Land Uses*

The Oil Sands Industry and interested stakeholders will work with Métis and First Nations people, within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, to develop reclamation guidelines for replacement of traditional land uses.

#### *4.5 Options for Reestablishment of Traditional Land Uses*

The regulatory process for new and ongoing oil sands projects must carefully consider traditional land uses in the impacted areas, and stipulate the following actions where appropriate:

- Avoid creating the disturbance
- Re-establish the use elsewhere, if possible
- Re-establish the use as quickly as possible on reclaimed land







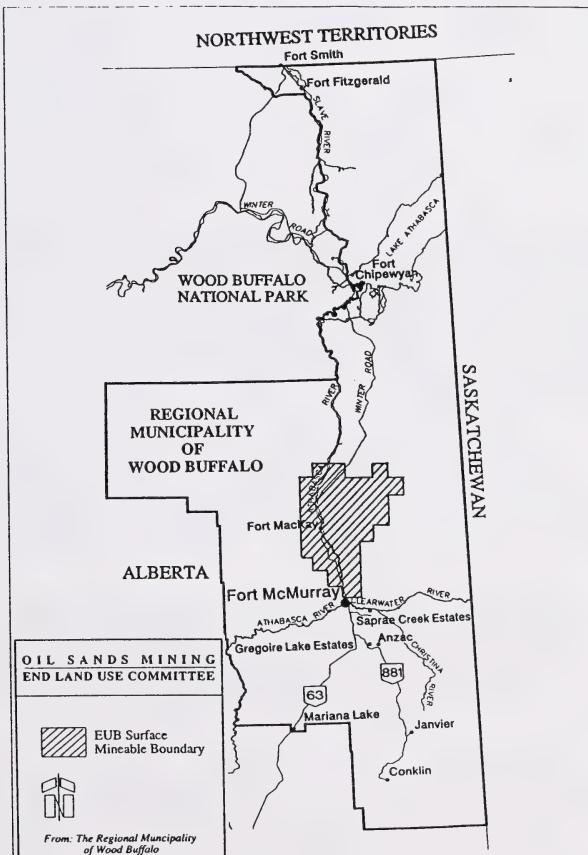
# Report

## INTRODUCTION

### **Oil Sands Mining Activity**

The Athabasca Oil Sands, located in the Fort McMurray area of Northeastern Alberta, is the Province's largest and most accessible source of bitumen. The approximate boundaries of the surface mineable areas in the Athabasca Oil Sands, encompassing more than 42,340 square kilometres and containing approximately 1 trillion barrels of bitumen<sup>1</sup>, are shown in Map 1. The Athabasca Oil Sands is one of four oil sands areas in the Province (with a total estimated 1.7 trillion barrels of bitumen)<sup>2</sup>. Much of the oil sands growth in Alberta is projected for the Fort McMurray area. At least sixteen companies are proposing investment, estimated at over 8 billion dollars, between 1996 and 2005<sup>3</sup>.

*Map 1*



1. Source: Syncrude Facts, 1997.
2. The other three oil sands areas are located near Peace River, Wabasca and Cold Lake.
3. "Liquid Gold: Thirty Years in the Alberta Oil Sands," a special section of the Calgary Herald and the Edmonton Journal, September 18, 1997.



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<b>Trends Affecting Oil Sands Mining Reclamation</b>	The Oil Sands Industry is heading into a growth period, putting increased pressure on current land uses, reclamation planning and the creation of reclaimed landscapes that address local and regional land and resource use needs over long periods of time. Large blocks of land will be coming available for reclamation over the next 10 years. Planning for reclamation is happening now. End land use will be determined by the landforms that are created during reclamation.
<b>Initiation and Intent of the Oil Sands Mining End Land Use Committee</b>	<p>In June 1996, the Director of the Land Reclamation Division, Environmental Regulatory Service, Alberta Environmental Protection, recommended that a committee be established with membership from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Oil Sands Mining Industry</li> <li>• Alberta Environmental Protection</li> <li>• Alberta Energy and Utilities Board</li> <li>• Representatives of interests that may be directly affected by oil sands mining such as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First Nation and Metis People</li> <li>- The Forest Industry</li> <li>- Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo</li> <li>- Environmental Interests</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The committee would make recommendations to the Government of Alberta and the Oil Sands Industry to assist in equitable and consistent decision making during the regulatory review and approval process for reclamation and end land use planning. The recommendations would assist the Government of Alberta and the Oil Sands Mining Industry with long term planning. The committee focused on minimizing impacts on other users and industries (e.g., forestry) while at the same time respecting Oil Sands Mining as an important regional activity. A framework that would help the industry and government regulators make decisions using a common understanding of legal, social and economic factors affecting reclamation and end land use was identified as an important product.</p> <p>In September 1996, the Land and Forest Service, Northeast Boreal Region, of Alberta Environmental Protection made a commitment to involve industry and other stakeholders in the discussion of post reclamation land use options for oil sands mines.</p>
<b>Oil Sands Mining as the Committee's Focus</b>	<h3>THE END LAND USE COMMITTEE</h3> <p>There are two bitumen recovery processes used by the petroleum industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining where the surface materials (soil, clay, sand) are removed so that the bitumen soaked oil sands can be removed</li> </ul>



- 
- Processes and “in situ” recovery, where the oil sands are injected with steam so that the bitumen flows to an underground collection system and then is pumped to processing facilities on the earth’s surface

The Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee focused on the surface reclamation and end land uses that follow oil sands mining.

As defined by Alberta's Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA), land reclamation is a requirement for companies conducting surface mining operations in the oil sands. Mining of oil sands results in changes to land forms. This mining activity creates options for land uses once mining is completed. The End Land Use Committee was established to provide recommendations on uses for reclaimed land.

<b>Committee Terms of Reference</b>	The Oil Sands Mining End Land Use Committee began meeting in February 1997. A draft terms of reference was presented, reviewed and amended. The terms of reference described the committee's purpose, role, membership, structure, operating procedures, remuneration and expenses. The committee agreed at the outset that their terms of reference would be open for discussion at any time. The terms of reference, version 6, August 12, 1997 was the last set agreed to by the committee. The terms of reference are included as Appendix 1 of this document.
<b>Committee Purposes</b>	<p>The following purposes were identified for the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make recommendations relating to the end land use of reclaimed lands resulting from surface mining of oil sands</li><li>• Develop recommendations that promote an integrated, regional approach to end land use, with the goal of reducing the regulatory review cycle time and regulatory uncertainty for the Oil Sands Industry, other industry sectors, all levels of government and the public</li><li>• Provide recommendations that can be considered during the detailed reclamation planning and regulatory review processes</li><li>• Provide recommendations on the general timing of the initiation of end land uses</li><li>• Consider consistency of committee recommendations with Provincial and Municipal government legislation, plans policies and programs, as well as short and long term provincial, municipal, local and corporate priorities and fiscal realities</li><li>• Provide opportunities for the public to review, validate and verify the recommendations</li></ul>



**Committee Membership and Meeting Management** Contact was made with organizations that provided the range of interests to be represented on the Committee. In some cases, the organizations and people contacted chose not to be directly involved in the Committee. However, they were kept informed through direct mail of all the Committee's agenda and meeting notes. The Committee agreed to be flexible in allowing participation on the committee, particularly people from the First Nations and Metis communities.

Committee members continued to be named and participate throughout the process. Figure 1 shows the Committee Membership as of December 1997.

**FIGURE 1**  
*Committee Membership*

Neil Barker (Chair)	<i>Alberta Environmental Protection Land and Forest Service</i>
Dennis Bratton	<i>Alberta Environmental Protection Environmental Regulatory Service</i>
Dale Huberdeau	<i>Alberta Environmental Protection Land and Forest Service</i>
John Martin	<i>Alberta Environmental Protection Natural Resource Service</i>
Doug Parrish	<i>Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo</i>
Wayne McKee	<i>Syn crude</i>
Steve Tuttle	<i>Suncor</i>
Chris Coles	<i>Mobil Oil Canada</i>
Doug Mead	<i>Shell Canada</i>
Howard Ewashko	<i>Northlands Forest Products</i>
Garry Ehrentraut	<i>Northlands Forest Products</i>
Ken Plourde	<i>ALPAC</i>
Rafique Islam	<i>Metis Nation of Alberta Association</i>
Tony Punko	<i>Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation</i>
Mike Aiken	<i>Consolidated Metis Locals</i>
Ann Dort-MacLean	<i>Fort McMurray Environmental Association</i>
Ralph Ramchandar	<i>Fort McMurray Fish &amp; Game Association</i>
Rick Hirtle	<i>Community Member</i>

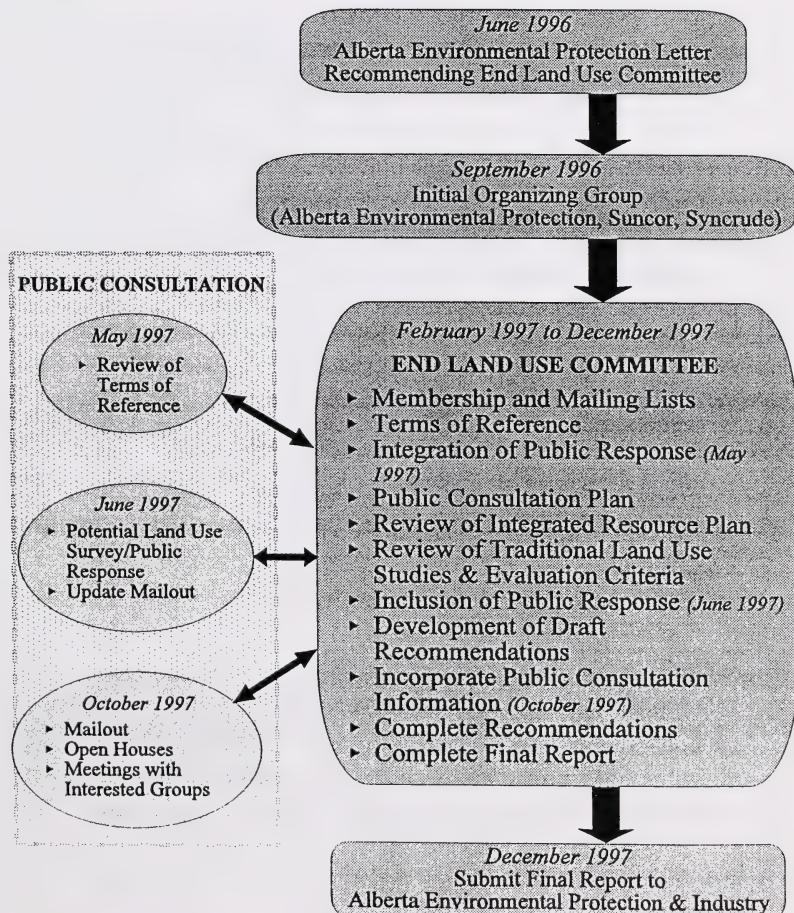


All of the Committee meetings were managed by a neutral facilitator. The facilitator also provided ongoing support for the committee through preparation and distribution of meeting summaries, interim and draft reports and planning and design of the public consultation program for the Committee's review, discussion and agreement.

### Committee Schedule and Decision Process

The Committee was established with a specific schedule for completing its task. The Committee began to meet formally in February 1997, with a completion date of December 20, 1997. The Committee agreed to a process and schedule for decision making to meet the established schedule. Meetings were called at the discretion of the Committee with the dates reflecting the Committee's review, discussion and time requirements. Figure 2 summarizes the schedule and decision process.

**FIGURE 2**  
*End Land Use Committee Schedule and Decision Process*





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## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A key part of the Committee's data collection and decision process was public consultation. The Committee discussed and agreed to a terms of reference for public consultation in April 1997 (Appendix 2).

There were three times during the Committee's decision process and schedule that were key for public involvement. The first was after the Committee had developed and agreed on the terms of reference (April and May 1997). The second was conducted after the Committee had developed a draft list of end land uses and a recommended set of end land use evaluation criteria (June and July 1997). The third event was scheduled after the Committee prepared their draft recommendations (October 1997).

<b>Public Consultation Terms of Reference</b>	The Committee identified three important public consultation program purposes:
<i>May 1997</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create awareness of the Committee and its purposes</li><li>• Describe opportunities for public consultation and encourage participation</li><li>• Validate and verify the committee terms of reference</li></ul>
<i>Methods</i>	The Committee used a combination of direct mail to industry, government and interested people. Approximately 140 people received an "Information Update" on the Committee's activities, including a description of background and proposed products and a response form for people who wished to receive more information on the committee (i.e., copies of the Committee's terms of reference, meeting summaries, future "Information Updates"). A media release was sent to all print and electronic media outlets in the Fort McMurray region. Information describing the Committee and who to contact for more information was placed on Alberta Environmental Protection's Internet web page.
<i>Results</i>	The mail-out generated nineteen requests for more information related to the Committee (terms of reference, meeting summaries, future "Information Updates") and approximately twenty more requests to be added to the contact list.
<b>End Land Uses and Evaluation Criteria - Public Consultation</b>	The second public consultation phase was initiated after the Committee had developed and discussed a proposed list of end land uses. The purposes of this phase were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtain advice on which end land uses should be considered further</li><li>• Test the validity of end land use evaluation criteria</li></ul>



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The responses were used by the committee to develop the draft recommendations.

*Methods* A survey form was prepared and sent by mail to the people on the Committee contact list. Approximately 150 surveys were mailed out, with a postage paid envelope. Thirty-eight (38) responses were received.

*Results* Figure 3 outlines the end land uses that were recommended as the top ten for further consideration by respondents. The detailed results and complete list of end land uses are included in Appendix 3.

***FIGURE 3***  
***Top Ten Potential End Land Uses***  
***For Further Consideration - Survey Results, July 1997***

- 1) Wildlife management areas
- 2) Traditional uses to support native lifestyle (hunting, trapping, fishing, collection of medicinal plants)
- 3) Extensive recreation (e.g., big game and bird hunting, fishing, canoeing, horses, hiking and interpretive trails)
- 4) Recreated natural ecosystems; land forms linked to form a mosaic and support bio-diversity
- 5) Bird watching/wildlife viewing
- 6) Industry reclamation research site; a cooperative research and study centre
- 7) Naturally reproducing fisheries
- 8) Trail network for a range of non-motorized uses (cross country skiing, horses, mountain biking)
- 9) Recreational lakes with public access
- 10) Intensive recreation (e.g., public parks, day-use sites)

Respondents rated the validity of eight evaluation criteria for end land uses. The results are reported in Figure 4. The evaluation criteria are presented, in order, beginning with "physically feasible", which had the highest validity rating. The detailed results are included in Appendix 3.



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***FIGURE 4***  
***Evaluation Criteria for End Land Uses -***  
***In Order of Validity from Survey Results, July 1997***

**Physically Feasible**

reclaimed landscape conditions allow land use to occur

**Maintains/Supports Natural/Ecological Conditions**

Maintains or enhances other uses/conditions allowing for long term natural sustainability

**Consistent with Regional Social and Economic Development**

Meets public expectations for support of historical/traditional regional land uses and maintains or enhances economic development opportunities

**Social and Economic Value**

Potential market conditions and operating costs minimize public cost in the long term or create opportunities for revenue generation

**Commitment by the Province**

Agreement, plans or policies exist which have made commitments to encourage and support this use

**Reclamation Costs**

Cost to oil sands companies to reclaim the land use

**Existed Pre-disturbance**

Was a use or condition that was evident prior to oil sands mining

**Consistent with Regulations/Plans/Policy**

There is a legal and policy framework that permits the use to occur

**Review of the  
Committee's Draft  
Recommendations**

*October 1997*

The purposes of the public consultation process in this phase of the committee process were to:

- Provide opportunities for public review, validation and verification of the committee's draft recommendations
- Encourage participation by a range of community interests and groups
- Identify and understand needs and concerns related to the draft recommendations
- Provide adequate information to participants so that they can understand the recommendations and respond
- Collect comments and responses that will help the End Land Use Committee finalize their recommendations



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*Methods* The Committee identified a range of methods to support the public consultation purposes. Figure 5 identifies the methods and schedule that was implemented.

**FIGURE 5**  
***Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee***  
***Review of Draft Recommendations***  
***Public Consultation Methods and Schedule***

**Media Package (October 2)**

News release, membership list and terms of reference sent out to six outlets:

- CFOK - Westlock
- OK Radio Group - Fort McMurray
- CFWE - Native Perspective - Edmonton
- CFRN TV - Fort McMurray
- Shaw Cable - Fort McMurray
- Fort McMurray Today

**Mailout (October 7)**

To stakeholder list - 163 - including October update, draft recommendations and response form, potential end land uses survey results and a postage-paid return envelope

**Posters (October 7)**

For distribution to participating organizations in Fort Chipewyan

**Newspaper Advertising**

- Fort McKay newsletter (week of October 13 to 17)
- Fort McMurray Today - 2 placements (October 15 and 22)

**Mailout to Households in Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (October 14 to 16)**

- Not including Fort McMurray
- Fort McKay (70)
- Anzac (142)
- Fort Chipewyan (319)
- Chard (102)
- Conklin (50)

**Open Houses (October 25 and 29)**

- Municipal Offices, Fort Chipewyan (October 25)
- Oil Sands Interpretive Centre, Fort McMurray (October 29)



**Results** The survey data and comments collected during the two open houses, sponsored by the End Land Use Committee, were reviewed and considered in the preparation of the final recommendations of the Committee.

Survey responses indicated that the recommendations drafted by the End Land Use Committee will contribute to successful end land use. The mean rating, based on a 4 point response scale (1 = "missing the mark", will not contribute to successful end land use to 4 = "on track", will contribute to successful end land use) for each of the draft recommendations is provided in Figure 6. The detail is provided in appendix 4.

**FIGURE 6**  
***Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee***  
***Survey Response and Summary of Comments***

1.0 Baseline Information	Mean	Summary of Respondents' Comments - Survey and Open Houses
1.1 New Oil Sands Developments	3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to define the scale/level of detail for baseline (site versus regional scale)</li> </ul>
1.2 Existing Oil Sands Operations	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standardization and a definition of that standard will be important.</li> </ul>
1.3 Existing Oil Sands Operations - Availability & Verification of Baseline Data	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The information should be widely available.</li> </ul>
2.0 Reclamation Plan Coordination	Mean	Summary of Respondents' Comments - Survey and Open Houses
2.1 Regional Coordination	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree. Stakeholders need to be identified.</li> <li>• Management by committee may create a high degree of uncertainty for industry if requirements and expectations change over time.</li> <li>• Alberta Environmental Protection should be the decision maker.</li> </ul>
2.2 Between Industry and Regulatory Agencies	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Productivity" will have to be defined and measured.</li> </ul>
2.3 Evidence of coordination	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may be difficult to measure and regulate.</li> </ul>
3.0 Land Use Categories and Allocation	Mean	Summary of Respondents' Comments - Survey and Open Houses
3.1 Land Use Categories	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End land uses should match but not exceed the number of original, pre-disturbance, land uses.</li> </ul>
3.2 Natural / Conservation Areas	3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to recognize the time required to establish natural landscapes and changing values over that time (ie 50 - 100 years)</li> </ul>
3.3 Human Development	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural and residential development should be limited.</li> <li>• Emphasize Alberta Environmental Protection review coordination with active involvement of the municipality.</li> </ul>



3.0 Land Use Categories and Allocation		Mean	Summary of Respondents' Comments - Survey and Open Houses
3.4 Forestry	3.3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting to similar species mix as pre-disturbance may not achieve forestry objectives.</li> <li>Forest management must recognize previous traditional and recreational uses.</li> </ul>

4.0 Priority of Establishing End Land Uses		Mean	Summary of Respondents' Comments - Survey and Open Houses
4.1 Land Reclamation on a progressive basis	3.9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree in principle. May be difficult to re-establish some end land uses, such as large wetland complexes.</li> <li>Be clear about the time required to re-establish end land uses.</li> </ul>
4.2 Re-establishment of Pre-disturbance Land Uses	3.7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May in conflict with recommendation 3.4.1</li> </ul>
4.3 Government and Industry to determine impacts on productive forest land.	3.4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comments applicable to the draft recommendations.</li> </ul>
4.4 Replacement of Traditional Land Uses	3.5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In most cases will apply to native and non-native users (eg hunting, fishing, gathering)</li> <li>Not sure that this recommendation is compatible unless it pertains to natural / conservation areas; lands reclaimed with human development or forestry in mind will not likely support</li> </ul>
4.5 Impacts on Traditional land uses	3.6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study, plan and talk with affected groups.</li> <li>Clarify “relocate uses”</li> </ul>

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Focus of the Recommendations** The End Land Use Committee prepared recommendations focusing on five areas in the reclamation process:

- 1) *Baseline Information and Data for End Land Use Decision Making - Predisturbance Land Capability.*

This includes recommendations on baseline data collection for new oil sands developments, existing oil sands operations and availability of and verification of baseline vegetation data for existing oil sands developments.

- 2) *Reclamation Plan Coordination.*

Recommendations deal with the need for regional coordination of end land use decisions through a group consisting of regulatory agencies, Oil Sands Industry and key stakeholders in the Regional Municipality of



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Wood Buffalo, requirements for coordination between government and industry and coordination of plans and reclamation activities among industry operators.

3) *Land Use Categories and Allocation*

The committee provided recommendations regarding allocation guidelines and associated land use for three major land use categories of Natural and Conservation Areas, Human Development, and Forestry.

4) *Priority of Establishing End Land Uses*

- Recognizing that land uses on reclaimed land will happen over long periods of time, the committee provided recommendations for establishing priorities.

5) *Regulatory Approval Process*

The committee provided a recommended review and approval process that will include consideration of the End Land Use Committee's recommendations, and public input. In the future, the proposed coordinating body (committee?) should be established as an integral part of the review and approval process for reclamation planning of new oil sands mining developments, at the 10 year review and approval cycle and when reclamation plan amendments are brought forward.

## USE OF THE END LAND USE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**End Land Use Planning by Companies** Reclamation and end land use planning by oil sands mining companies will be guided by the committee's recommendations.

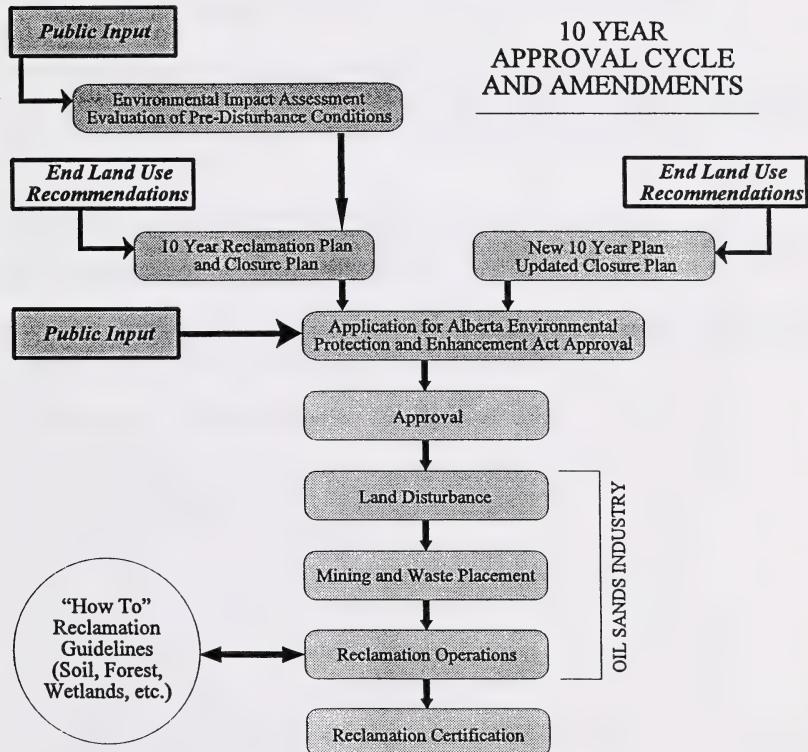
**Provincial Government Decision Making** Provincial Government regulatory review and decision making will be based on the committee's recommendations. The recommendations will be used as the guideline in the reclamation plan approval process.

Figure 7 below illustrates the recommended regulatory review and approval decision process for reclamation and end land use planning.



**FIGURE 7**  
*Regulatory Approval Process  
 for Reclamation and End Land Use Plans*

**ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT**



**Ongoing Monitoring and Review**

Preparation of a strategy for ongoing monitoring and review of the committee's recommendations oil sands mining end land use, including the next steps for coordination, will be required.



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# **Glossary of Terms**

*Reviewed and confirmed at the Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee meeting, Fort McMurray, Alberta, December 4, 1997*

**Aboriginal People** Refers to the descendants of the original inhabitants of Canada. Pursuant to the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982, and Schedule B of the Canada Act, 1982, (Chapter 11, Section 35) Aboriginal peoples includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. The Constitution does not define membership in the individual groups. (*Alberta Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, 1997*)

**Aboriginal Traditional Land Uses** Traditional land use means established use(s) by the Aboriginal peoples (including First Nations, Métis and Inuit) through generations of custom, belief, knowledge, experience and handed down to posterity orally and by practice.

The uses signify means of livelihood for survival, access & transportation, cultural heritage, spiritual values and land ethic based on the principle of perpetual sustainability of natural resources.

The following are some of the major pre-disturbance traditional land use categories that exist in the oils sands mining area:

*Consider prior to disturbance can be an end land use*

- Trap lines
- Fishing lines in streams, rivers and lakes
- Trails and inter-settlement trail systems
- Observation sites for wildlife behaviour
- Carving and pipe stone quarries
- Farming, gardening and grazing areas
- Hay meadows
- Berry patches
- Wild rice and other food growing sites
- Medicinal plants, herbs, shrubs, etc., growing areas
- Berries, eggs, medicine, etc., gathering sites
- Fur bearing animal habitat and harvest sites
- Raptor nesting sites
- Moose, deer, elk and caribou habitat/harvest locations
- Upland bird habitat/harvest locations
- Waterfowl habitat/harvest locations
- Fish spawning areas in creeks, rivers and lakes
- Fish habitat/harvest locations
- Dry fish preparation sites/camps

*Consider prior to disturbance, reclamation is not possible*

- Burial sites - individual and multiple
- Cabins - some signify traditional place names



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacred sites and spiritual renewal camps</li> <li>• Birthplaces, puberty retreats for women</li> <li>• Archaeological sites</li> <li>• Artesian wells/springs</li> <li>• Salt/mineral licks</li> </ul> <p><i>(Métis Nation of Alberta Association, 1997)</i></p>
<b>Agricultural Development</b>	<p>Includes improved grazing, forage or crop production, and market gardening.</p> <p><i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i></p>
<b>Annual Allowable Cut</b>	<p>The total volume of timber that may be harvested in one year based under sustained-yield management.</p> <p><i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i></p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>The variety of living components of ecosystems. Biodiversity within plant communities is composed of the range of genetic, species, structural and functional diversity. Structural diversity being the structure of the plant communities both horizontally and vertically, while functional diversity encompasses the physiological differences between vegetation.</p> <p><i>(AEP - Forest Vegetation Reclamation Guidelines)</i></p>
<b>Bitumen</b>	<p>The molasses-like mixture of hydrocarbons that comprises up to 18 percent of oil sands.</p> <p><i>(Syncrude Facts, 1997)</i></p>
<b>Commercial Development</b>	<p>Commercial development refers to all activities and infrastructure associated with the development of facilities for use by the general public, including the buying, selling, and processing of goods and services. Development may include sites for stores, factories, shopping centres, industrial parks, food, accommodation, recreational development and services, together with the necessary adjacent facilities such as utilities, access streets and other servicing structures.</p> <p><i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i></p>
<b>Closure Plan</b>	<p>Conceptual final reclamation plan provided for review and approval by Provincial regulatory agencies. The plan describes how the site will look after reclamation. The plan must include consideration for: potential or optional end land uses; integration with surrounding mining operations; current and ongoing maintenance requirements; and cost.</p> <p><i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i></p>
<b>Conservation and Reclamation Approval</b>	<p>Under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, regulations pertaining to conservation and reclamation ensures that land used for industrial purposes is maintained in an environmentally sound manner. The approval process requires operators to undertake conservation</p>



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measures during the construction and operation of projects and to reclaim the land when the project is finished. Steps taken to achieve this goal include removing, storing and replacing topsoil; contouring disturbed land; and seeding affected areas to prevent erosion and establish vegetation. Conservation and reclamation is not considered complete until an inspector examines the area and issues a reclamation certificate.

(*Alberta Environmental Protection, A Guide to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, 1993)

**Ecosystem** A complete, interacting system of organisms considered together with the non-living factors of their environment.

**Environmental Impact Assessment** The preparation of a report by the proponent of an activity as part of the approval requirements under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. The assessment considers the interaction of physical, natural, social and economic factors and makes a determination of the probable effects of the plan or proposal upon these operating systems.

(*Alberta Environmental Protection, A Guide to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, 1993)

**Equivalent Land Capability** The ability to support various land uses is similar to that which existed before the activity, but that the ability to support individual land uses will not necessarily be identical after reclamation.

(*Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan*, 1996)

**Extensive Recreation** Extensive recreation refers to the recreational use of trails, natural lakes, rivers, streams and generally undeveloped or minimally developed areas. The term includes such activities as off-highway vehicle use, random camping, hiking, back packing, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

(*Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan*, 1996)

**First Nations** A band or First Nation is defined in the Indian Act as a body of Indians for whose common use and benefit lands have been set aside or monies held by the Government of Canada or declared by the Governor in Council to be a band. Most bands prefer to be referred to as First Nations.

(*Alberta Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs*, 1997)

**General Community** All residents within a given geographical area.

**Industry** The infrastructure and activities associated with the extraction, removal and processing of non-renewable resources.

(*Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee*, 1997)



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<b>Intensive Recreation</b>	Intensive recreation refers to high-density recreational use such as developed staging areas and camp and picnic grounds, and other sites or areas requiring continuous recreational management and services to maintain recreational opportunities. <i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i>
<b>Land Capability</b>	The ability of the land to support a given land use regardless of future management inputs. It refers to an evaluation or rating of the kind and degree of limitations on land use in terms of physical, chemical and biological characteristics such as topography, drainage, hydrology, soils and vegetation. <i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i>
<b>Land Use</b>	Development or redevelopment of land or water areas for for a defined purpose. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Métis</b>	An Aboriginal person who received, or was entitled to receive, land grants and/or Scrip under the provisions of the Manitoba Act, 1870 or the Dominion Lands Acts, as enacted from time to time; or, a person of Aboriginal descent who is accepted by the Métis Nation (Métis Nation Accord, July 1992). <i>(Metis Nation of Alberta Association, 1997)</i>
<b>Multiple Land Uses</b>	The various uses of reclaimed land which may exist in one area, so that no one use detracts from the quality of another. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Oil Sands</b>	Sand and other rock material containing crude bitumen; the crude bitumen contained in those sands and other rock materials; and any other material substances other than natural gas, in association with that crude bitumen or those sands and other rock materials. <i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i>
<b>Oil Sands Industry</b>	Companies that are in the business of extraction, removal and processing of oil sands. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Pre-disturbance Land Capability</b>	The ability of the land to support vegetation types and ecosystems which existed prior to disturbance. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Productivity</b>	The amount of vegetation and wildlife produced or yielded in a given area. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>



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<b>Productive Capability</b>	The natural ability of a given area to produce matter or material. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Reclamation</b>	All practical and reasonable methods of designing and conducting an activity to ensure the return of equivalent land capability. <i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i>
<b>Reclamation Plan</b>	A plan established by each oil company defining specific instructions (landform, soil, vegetation) and schedule for reclamation of disturbed land. <i>(Syncrude, 1997)</i>
<b>Regulatory Agencies</b>	Regulatory agencies involved in reclamation plan approval in the Province of Alberta include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alberta Environmental Protection (AEP)</li> <li>• Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB)</li> <li>• Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB)</li> </ul> <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Residential Development</b>	All activities and infrastructure associated with permanent housing for residents. <i>(Fort McMurray-Athabasca Oil Sands Subregional Integrated Resource Plan, 1996)</i>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	People, groups, communities, organizations, businesses or industry operators with a "stake" or direct interest in decisions that may affect them. The stakeholders will include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment and Health</li> <li>• Oil Sands Industry</li> <li>• Forestry Industry</li> <li>• Other mining interests (i.e., rights holders)</li> <li>• First Nations</li> <li>• Métis Nation of Alberta Association</li> <li>• Regulatory Agencies</li> <li>• Recreation and Sports</li> </ul> <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Traditional Land Use</b>	The continual use of an area over a long period of time by people for gathering, hunting and spiritual use. <i>(Oil Sands Mining - End Land Use Committee, 1997)</i>
<b>Traditional Local Use</b>	Use that has occurred in the area for more than a decade and has shown itself to be compatible with the landscape and ecosystem. <i>(Public Consultation regarding the Draft Management Plan for Lakeland Provincial Park and Recreation Area, October/November 1996)</i>







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# *Appendix 1*

## **OIL SANDS MINING - END LAND USE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Version 6 - August 12, 1997

### **1.0 Background**

As defined in the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Chapter E-13.3 Definitions 1. (ccc); Activities Designation Regulation, Division 3 - Conservation and Reclamation), land reclamation is a requirement for companies conducting surface mining operations in the oil sands. Mining of oil sands results in changes in land forms. This mining activity creates options for land uses once mining is completed. The End Land Use Committee will provide recommendations on uses for reclaimed land. There is a need to refine end land use options using the comments from stakeholders along with mining companies. Legislation, policies, lease requirements, integrated resource plans of the Alberta Government affect what the options may be for the final reclaimed landscape.

Through AEP's regulatory review and approvals process for oil sands mining activities, it was suggested that a committee be formed to assist in the decision making process regarding final land uses of the mined areas. Land and Forest Service of Environmental Protection, Northeast Boreal Region, has made a commitment to involve industry and other stakeholders in the discussion of post reclamation land use options for oil sand mines.

### **2.0 Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Committee is to make recommendations relating to the end land use of the reclaimed landscape resulting from surface mining of oil sands in the Athabasca oil sands area. The Committee is advisory to both Alberta Environmental Protection and the oil sands mining companies.
- 2.2 The Committee will develop recommendations that promote an integrated, regional approach to end land use. The goal will be to reduce regulatory cycle time and regulatory uncertainty for the oil sands industry, other industry sectors and the public.
- 2.3 The Committee's recommendations on end land use of oil sands mined areas will be considered during the detailed reclamation planning process carried out by specific oil sands companies and reclamation officials, and during the public regulatory review process.
- 2.4 The Committee will provide recommendations on the general timing of initiation of use.
- 2.5 Recommendations of the Committee should be consistent within the framework provided by:
  - Provincial Acts, Regulations, Integrated Resources Plans, Municipal Land Use Plans, and policies of the Alberta Government (i.e., Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Public Lands Act, Forest Act, Water Act, Municipal Government Act, Historical Resources Act, Fort McMurray Subregional Integrated Resource Plan)



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- Short and long term provincial, municipal, local and corporate priorities and fiscal realities

2.6 The Committee will provide a public review opportunity to validate and verify the recommendations that are developed.

### **3.0 Role**

- 3.1 The Committee will have the role of advisor to both Alberta Environmental Protection and the oil sands mining industry in the future reclamation of oil sands mined areas in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- 3.2 Alberta Land and Forest Service, Northeast Boreal Region will sponsor this Committee in the development of recommendations and will recommend a facilitator to meet the needs of the Committee.
- 3.3 The oil sands mining industry will implement the recommendations through an approved conservation and reclamation planning process.
- 3.4 Alberta Environmental Protection will ensure continuity between the approved conservation and reclamation plan and reclamation operations.
- 3.5 Alberta Environmental Protection will consider the recommendations of the Committee in the review of conservation and reclamation plans for oil sands mining.
- 3.6 The Committee will plan, design and implement a public consultation process to ensure that the public's views and concerns will be addressed.

### **4.0 Membership**

- 4.1 The Committee will include land users and land managers. This group will make opportunities for a broad representation from other interest groups (or stakeholders). Membership for meetings will be encouraged by, but not limited to:
  - Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
  - Oil Sands Industry (Syncrude, Suncor, Solvex, Mobil Oil and Shell)
  - Alberta Land and Forest Service
  - Environmental Regulatory Services Conservation and Reclamation
  - Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
  - Natural Resources Service (Fish and Wildlife)
  - Fort McKay First Nation
  - Fort McMurray First Nation
  - Fort McKay Métis Nation
  - Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
  - Métis Nation of Alberta Association
  - Forest Industry (Alberta Pacific Forest Industries and Northlands Forest Products)
  - Fort McMurray Environmental Association
  - Fort McMurray Fish and Game Association



- 
- 4.2 The facilitator for the Committee will be selected by Land and Forest Service and approved by the Committee and will be someone who is considered neutral.

## **5.0 Structure and Representation**

- 5.1 Each Committee member is expected to represent their association, organization or group to the best of their abilities, ensuring that consensus is reached on recommendations.
- 5.2 In the interest of continuity, it is expected that members will be in attendance at all meetings of the Committee. Where this is not possible, a designated alternate can be identified.
- 5.3 Persons who are not members of the Committee may be invited to participate in the discussions with the concurrence of the Committee members.
- 5.4 Additions to the Committee may be made with the concurrence of the members.

## **6.0 Operating Procedures**

- 6.1 The Committee will operate by consensus.
- 6.2 Meeting frequency will be determined by the Committee members. The Committee will meet as often as required to permit progress on issues and their resolution.
- 6.3 Committee meeting minutes will be prepared and distributed to Committee members and others who have expressed an interest in the deliberations of the Committee. Preparation and distribution of the meeting minutes will be the responsibility of the facilitator.
- 6.4 Committee members will be responsible for discussing Committee positions and proposals with their groups, organizations and associations. Each member will make a "good faith" effort to obtain their group's agreement on areas of consensus reached by the Committee. It is understood that receiving full concurrence by all of each groups' constituents is not always possible. Members of the Committee will do their best to communicate the reasons for each recommendation.
- 6.5 The Committee will complete its mandate by December 20, 1997. The Committee will identify products and milestones to demonstrate progress and public validation of Committee process and products.

## **7.0 Remuneration and Expenses**

- 7.1 Membership on the Committee will be voluntary. No remuneration will be provided by the Committee.
- 7.2 Oil sands industry and the Provincial Government will cover the incidental costs of the Committee.







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# **Appendix 2**

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Terms of Reference**

<b>Current Situation</b>	A committee has been formed to provide advice to Alberta Environmental Protection and Oil Sands Industry representatives. The committee will make recommendations for future reclamation of oil sands mined areas in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. The committee members represent a range of interests and perspectives and believe that public consultation at key points during the committee advisory process will be important and helpful.
<b>End Land Use Committee Decision Statement</b>	To make recommendations for end land use of reclaimed land within the surface minable oil sands area of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
<b>Need For Public Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ The Oil Sands End Land Use Committee has indicated a commitment to public consultation and has identified this requirement in the committee's terms of reference.</li><li>▶ The committee will gain the benefit of public comment, views and concerns.</li></ul>
<b>Public Consultation Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ To provide opportunities for public review, validation and verification of the committee's products (e.g., Terms of Reference, Committee Recommendations).</li><li>▶ To identify and understand views and concerns regarding the committee's recommendations for end land use, from various stakeholders/communities of interest.</li><li>▶ To ensure that public views and concerns are addressed.</li><li>▶ To provide adequate information to public participants so that they can understand and respond.</li><li>▶ To identify community and public groups/interests who should be consulted.</li><li>▶ To encourage participation by the identified community and public groups/interests.</li><li>▶ To support committee members as the key links in obtaining views and concerns from their groups, organizations and associations.</li><li>▶ To recognize the public consultation program in the overall committee schedule and budget.</li></ul>



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<b>Public Involvement Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Information will be made available to anyone who wishes to know more about the committee and how they can participate in the public consultation process.</li> <li>▶ The use of information from the public in the preparation of committee products will be clearly identified and explained.</li> <li>▶ Public participants will be provided with opportunities to learn about, view, question and understand the role of the committee and its recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>Scope of Public Involvement</b>	<p>A range of community and public interests have been identified, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Environment</li> <li>▶ Oil Sands Rights Holders</li> <li>▶ Other Mining Interests</li> <li>▶ First Nations</li> <li>▶ Métis Nation of Alberta Association</li> <li>▶ Provincial Government Regulators (Alberta Environmental Protection, Alberta Energy and Utilities Board)</li> <li>▶ Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo</li> <li>▶ Recreation/Sports</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Public Input</b>	<p>To assist the committee in determining, verifying and validating their recommendations for future reclamation of oil sands mined areas in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.</p>

## Activities

<b>Mailing Lists/Contacts</b>	<p>Two mailing lists were created. The first was a general contact list of names of 163 individuals supplied by Committee members which included non-governmental environmental groups, First Nations and Métis, media, municipal government, service agencies, schools, provincial government, and industry as well as interested individuals.</p> <p>In April this contact list was mailed the Committee's first Update, a Potential End Land Uses Survey, and a form to indicate whether they wished to receive additional information on the Committee.</p> <p>A second mailing list was formed of those individuals (22) who indicated they wished to receive regular meeting summaries in addition to the general mailings. This list also included individuals/organizations who had contacted Equus or Committee members directly to express their interest in the Committee.</p>
<b>News Releases</b>	<p>A first news release was made in early May and was faxed to four local outlets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) OK Radio Group</li> </ol>



- 
- 2) CFRN TV
  - 3) Shaw Cable
  - 4) Fort McMurray Today

The news release reported on the committee's start-up, purpose, membership, timelines and opportunity for public review. One response was received from Fort McMurray Today. Media met with Wayne McKee, Steve Tuttle and Ann Dort-MacLean which resulted in a front-page news story.

A second media package was mailed to six outlets in early October. The package included a news release, Committee membership list, and Committee terms of reference. This news release provided information on the Committee's progress and the opportunities available to those who wished to review and provide comments on the draft recommendations prepared by the Committee.

- 1) CFOK (Westlock)
- 2) OK Radio Group (Fort McMurray)
- 3) CFWE Native Perspective (Edmonton)
- 4) CFRN TV (Fort McMurray)
- 5) Shaw Cable (Fort McMurray)
- 6) Fort McMurray Today

Jim Gendron was contacted by CJOK of Fort McMurray wanting to interview someone regarding the Committee. Jim recommended they talk to one of the Committee members. Ann Dort-MacLean was contacted and interviewed on the radio. Dale Huberdeau was also contacted and represented the Committee on a CJOK radio talk show.

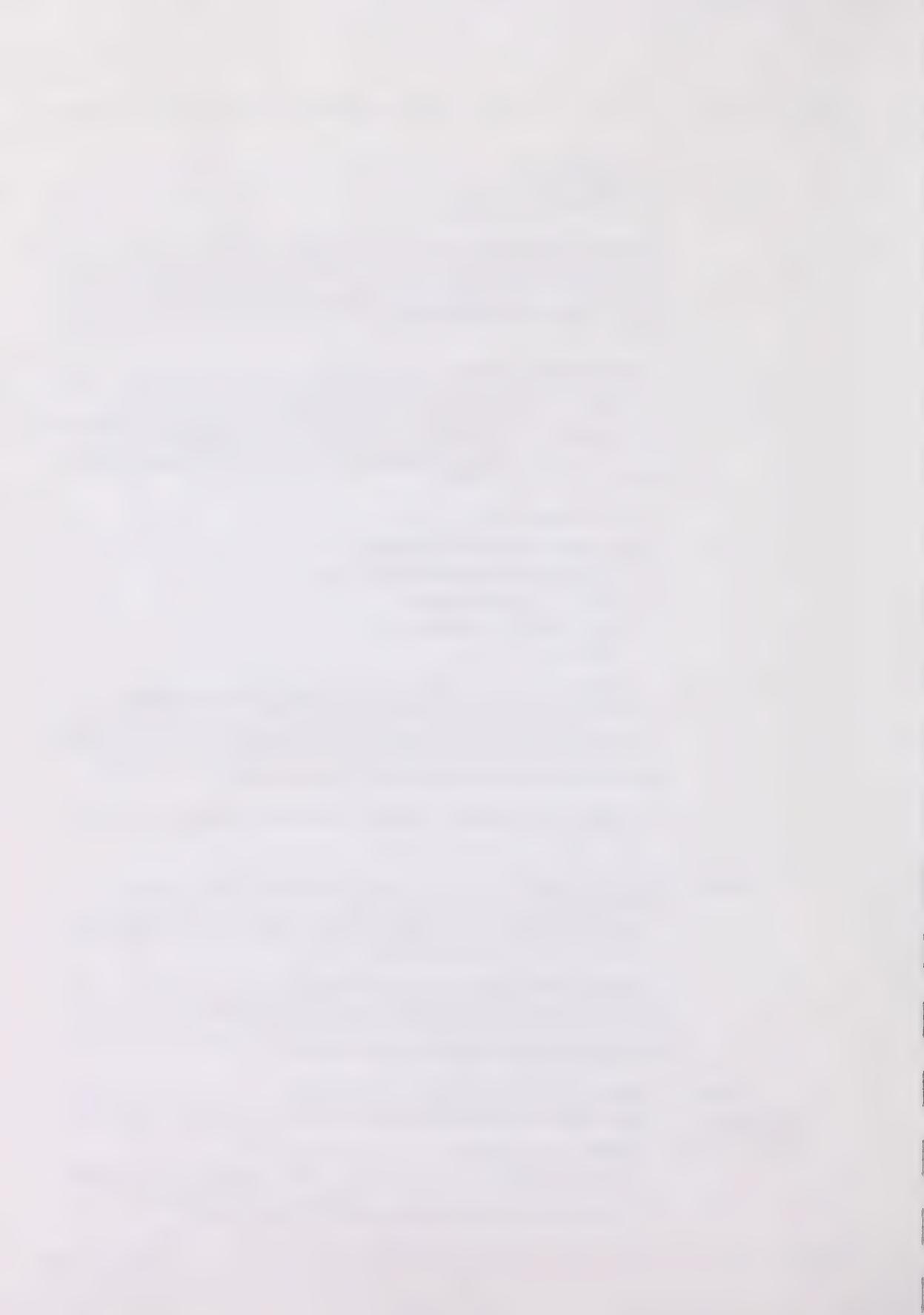
Fort McMurray Today also contacted Wayne McKee/Steve Tuttle about an interview.

**Updates** The first Update was sent out in April to the contact list along with a Potential End Land Uses Survey, a form to indicate whether they wished to receive additional information on the Committee, and a postage-paid return envelope were also included.

A second Update was produced in October and sent out to the list of 163 contacts. Along with the Update was sent the Draft Recommendations, a response form, the Committee terms of reference, Potential End Uses Survey Results and a postage-paid return envelope.

**Public Consultation Opportunities** Notification of the opportunities for the public to comment on the Draft Recommendations prepared by the Committee included the following:

- . Newspaper Advertising - Fort McMurray Today ran two ad placements in the Business Section of the daily paper on October 15 and 22. An ad was also sent for inclusion in the Fort McKay Newsletter for placement the week of October 13 to 17.



- 
- Bulk Mailout by Canada Post of a one-page flyer to households in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (not including Fort McMurray) was made October 14, 15 and 16 and included the following communities for a total of 683 flyers :
    - Fort McKay (70)
    - Anzac (142)
    - Fort Chipewyan (319)
    - Chard (102)
    - Conklin (50)
  - Mailout to Contact List of 163 individuals and organizations, was mailed on October 7. The package included the October update, the draft recommendations and response form, Potential Land Uses Survey Results and a postage-paid return envelope.

**Open Houses** Two open houses were held:

- 1) Fort Chipewyan, Saturday October 25, 1997 - 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Offices
- 2) Fort McMurray, Wednesday October 29, 1997 - 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Oil Sands Interpretive Centre

**Requested Meetings** Groups and organizations were notified of the opportunity to request a meeting with two or threee Committee members to learn more about the End Land Use Committee or comment on the Draft Recommendations through contact list mailout, newspaper ads, bulk mail flyers, as well as radio interviews and talk shows.

As of October 22, no response had been received.



# **Appendix 3**

## **POTENTIAL END LAND USE - SURVEY RESULTS**

Respondents were asked to help the End Land Use Committee to determine which potential end land uses should be considered and to validate eight proposed evaluation criteria. The responses will be used by the Committee to develop a process for evaluating a range of potential end land uses on reclaimed oil sands areas. Total number of respondents to the survey: 38.

### **PART ONE: POTENTIAL END LAND USES**

Respondents were asked to indicate the priority level for further consideration of each of the potential end land uses listed below. Mean results are based on a scale where 1=Not a Priority to 4=High Priority. N=number of respondents. Results have been listed in order of highest priority to lowest priority, as rated by respondents.

<b><i>Further Consideration of the Proposed End Land Use, ....</i></b>	<b><i>...is</i></b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>N</b>
Wildlife management areas		3.3	37	
Traditional uses to support native lifestyle (hunting, trapping, fishing, collection of medicinal plants)		3.1	37	
Extensive recreation (e.g., big game and bird hunting, fishing, canoeing, horses, hiking and interpretive trails)		3.1	37	
Recreated natural ecosystems; land forms linked to form a mosaic and support bio-diversity		3.1	37	
Bird watching/wildlife viewing		3.1	36	
Industry reclamation research site; a cooperative research and study centre		3.1	36	
Naturally reproducing fisheries		3.0	37	
Trail network for a range of non-motorized uses (cross country skiing, horses, mountain biking)		2.9	37	
Recreational lakes with public access		2.9	37	
Intensive recreation (e.g., public parks, day-use sites)		2.8	37	
Berry production ("natural" berry picking)		2.8	36	
Ranching and grazing (e.g., elk, bison, cattle)		2.7	37	
Seed farm for tree production; superior native tree species seed (genetic management/hybrid development)		2.7	37	
Rare, unique and endangered plants and animals		2.6	37	
Timber harvesting of natural growth (commercial harvesting of aspen, black spruce, balsam fir, poplar and pine)		2.6	37	
Gathering herbs, mushrooms, natural materials and products		2.6	36	
Tree farming (intensive commercial forest management)		2.5	37	
Trail network for a range of motorized uses (off-highway vehicles, snowmobiling)		2.3	38	
Designated off-highway vehicle areas		2.3	37	



<b>Further Consideration of the Proposed End Land Use, ....</b>	<b>...is</b>	<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>N</b>
Commercial infrastructure; airports, transportation corridors (highways), secondary/light industrial commercial facilities			2.3	37
Intensive crop production (e.g., market gardens, berry farms)			2.2	36
Golf courses			2.0	37
Country residential (acreage) development			2.0	36
Fur farming			2.0	35
Wild rice production			1.8	37
Commercial fishing			1.8	36
High density residential areas (i.e., new town sites)			1.6	37

#### *Additional Recommended End Land Uses*

- ▶ Reclaim to previous land form and ecological conditions (i.e. vegetation types)
- ▶ Right now we live in a swamp. Let's turn it into a garden.
- ▶ Involve Ducks Unlimited for wetlands developments.
- ▶ "Native lifestyle" needs to be defined.
- ▶ Plans such as this, end land use, should take into consideration the extreme importance of Aboriginal involvement, both technically and politically. Without their involvement and contribution, end land use plans are not a true reflection of ideas for the future.
- ▶ A blend of uses should be considered for the area, which will return the area to a self-sustaining ecosystem while allowing for other uses to occur in the area consistent with the terms of stakeholders.
- ▶ Reclamations to all industry should be mandatory.

## PART TWO: EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following eight criteria will be used by the End Land Use Committee to evaluate the potential end land uses described above. Respondents were asked to indicate the validity of each of these criteria. Mean results are based on a scale where 1=Not valid to 4=Highly valid. N=number of respondents. Results have been listed order of highest validity to lowest validity

<b>The Evaluation Criteria, ...</b>	<b>...is</b>	<b>Validity</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Physically Feasible</b>			3.5	38
Reclaimed landscape conditions allow for land use to occur				
<b>Maintains/Supports Natural/Ecological Conditions</b>			3.4	37
Maintains or enhances other uses/conditions allowing for long term natural sustainability				
<b>Consistent with Regional Social and Economic Development</b>			3.2	38
Meets public expectations for support of historical/traditional regional land uses and maintains or enhances economic development opportunities				



<i>The Evaluation Criteria, ...</i>	<i>...is</i>	<b>Validity</b>	
		Mean	N
<b>Social and Economic Value</b> Potential market conditions and operating costs minimize public cost in the long term or create opportunities for revenue generation		3.1	37
<b>Commitment by the Province</b> Agreement, plans or policies exist which have made commitments to encourage and support this use		3.0	35
<b>Reclamation Costs</b> Cost to oil sands companies to reclaim to the land use		2.9	37
<b>Existed Pre-disturbance</b> Was a use or condition that was evident prior to oil sands mining		2.7	38
<b>Consistent with Regulations/Plans/Policy</b> There is a legal and policy framework that permits the use to occur		2.7	37

#### *Additional Recommended Evaluation Criteria*

- ▶ Will it make this a better place to live for ourselves and our children?
- ▶ Social and Economic Value "...operating costs minimize public cost..." - this is not especially clear. If this particular criteria survives, it would be useful to get a better understanding of what is intended.
- ▶ The "value" of the land to the community after reclamation. Is it feasible that the land can be much more productive after reclamation? e.g., it would be prohibitively expensive to clear and drain the land for animal ranching but restoring the land to this condition would be a "bonus" as there is a shortage of land suitable for this purpose in this area.
- ▶ Evaluation of options should not be fettered by the existing policy framework. You must be free to identify and adopt new options which may then be embodied in a new policy framework.
- ▶ Cost should not be a driver here. The companies have made healthy profits from "destroying" the landscape. They should be required to pay to put it back in as good of shape as is technically feasible.

### PART THREE: YOUR AREA OF INTEREST

Respondents were asked to check the ONE area of interest, below, that best describes yours:

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 14 Health/Environment     | 7 Other              |
| 2 Oil Sands Right Holder  | ▶ Trapping           |
| 3 First Nation/Aboriginal | ▶ Media              |
| 3 Provincial Government   | ▶ Small Business     |
| 4 Municipal Government    | ▶ General Public (2) |
| 0 Federal Government      | ▶ Education          |
| 5 Recreation              | ▶ None of the above  |







# *Appendix 4*

## DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS - OPEN HOUSE AND SURVEY RESULTS

### FORT CHIPEWYAN - October 25, 1997

#### Attendees

Lawrence Marten Box 133 Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0	Tim Burggraaf Box 444 Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0	Scott Flett Box 40 Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0
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Matthew Lepine  
M.C.F.N.  
Box 90  
Fort Chipewyan, AB T0P 1B0

#### Respondents were asked to indicate their organization/area of interest:

2 Aboriginal      2 Provincial Government

#### Respondents were asked to indicate whether the Open House met their needs for review of the End Land Use Committee's draft recommendations?

- Did the Open House help you better understand the draft recommendations being proposed?  
YES 2 NO 0
- Did you comment on those areas of greatest need/concern to you? YES 1 NO 1
- Did committee members listen and record your comments and talk about proposed solutions? YES 2 NO 0

#### Respondents were asked if they received the information needed to participate?

- Was the information on display helpful? YES 2 NO 0
- Were the End Land Use Committee members helpful in explaining the draft recommendations? YES 2 NO 0
- Were the printed materials easy to understand and use? YES 1 NO 0

#### Additional Comments:

- Had some of it beforehand and was able to learn
- Just received the printed materials. Response form looks alright to respond to and send back



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**Respondents were asked if there are improvements they would recommend for the Open House or any future public involvement activities?**

- ▶ No
- ▶ No, hard to bring people out unless there is a big issue

**Open House hosts were asked to indicate comments received and their observations:**

**Issues/Recommendations of Greatest Interest:**

- ▶ Interested in how far from river the mining was, concerned with water quality and bear hunting camps that kill over 50 bear per camp. Complained about the bear grease being oily and not firm as it was he was younger, animals are not as healthy now

### **FORT MCMURRAY - October 29, 1997**

#### **Attendees**

Joe Trotz Box 59 Coleman, AB T0K 0M0	Gordon Armitage Box 5887 Ft McMurray, AB T9H 4V9	Gord McKenna 199 Berens Place Ft McMurray, AB T9K 2C6
Harold Roth 116 Cote Bay Ft McMurray, AB T9H 4R9	Don Klyn 108 Thicket Drive Ft McMurray, AB T9H 3C2	Bonnie Evans Rhyshyn Resources Box 6111 Ft McMurray, AB T9H 4W1
Joe Gauthier Alberta Trappers 27 Rae Crescent Ft McMurray, AB T9H 1H2	Kelvin Collins Ft McKay Enviro. Services Box 5360 Ft McMurray, AB T9H 3G4	Phil Jean Trapper 7118 Bolyea Avenue Ft McMurray, AB T9H 1B1
Diane McKee 341 Signal Road Ft McMurray, AB T9H 3W2	Doug Kennedy 169 Brousseau Crescent Ft McMurray, AB T9K 2G8	Rick Arthur 383 Cornwall Drive Ft McMurray, AB T9K 1G8
Irene Thomas Fort McMurray Today Bag 4008, 8550 Franklin Ave Ft McMurray, AB T9H 3G1		

**Respondents were asked to indicate their organization/area of interest:**

- |                           |            |                        |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 4 Environmental Interests | 2 Forestry | 4 Residents (Personal) |
| 1 Provincial Government   | 2 Trappers | 1 Media                |



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**Respondents were asked to indicate whether the Open House met their needs for review of the End Land Use Committee's draft recommendations?**

- Did the Open House help you better understand the draft recommendations being proposed? YES 7 NO 1
- Did you comment on those areas of greatest need/concern to you? YES 8 NO 0
- Did committee members listen and record your comments and talk about proposed solutions? YES 8 NO 0

Additional Comments:

- ▶ More displays

**Respondents were asked if they received the information needed to participate?**

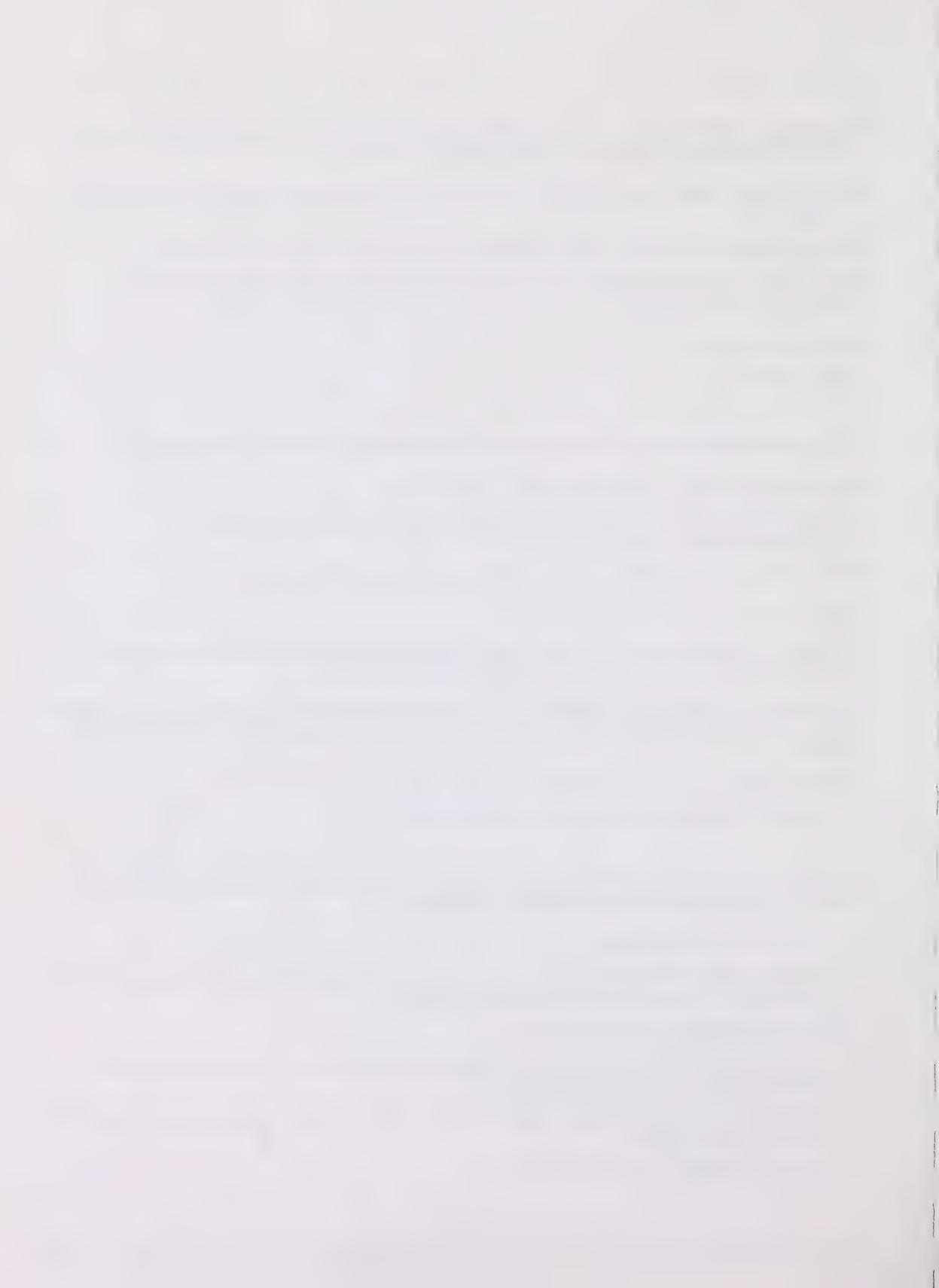
- Was the information on display helpful? YES 6 NO 1
- Were the End Land Use Committee members helpful in explaining the draft recommendations? YES 8 NO 0
- Were the printed materials easy to understand and use? YES 6 NO 1

Additional Comments:

- ▶ Maps and diagrams were the most helpful - get better overall concept. Printed materials could have been more straight forward/easier to understand.
- ▶ Information display - personal interest in recreational areas between Fivebag and Richardson River, maps didn't indicate clearly where development might go and if it would affect these areas.
- ▶ Worked well to help me understand so I can respond.
- ▶ I liked the flow diagram on process decision making.

**Respondents were asked if there are improvements they would recommend for the Open House or any future public involvement activities?**

- ▶ Liked format and informality.
- ▶ Printed materials - information board - "priorities" - make sure that "quickly" is really 20 to 50 years from now - people need to know that up front.
- ▶ No, more people would have been nice.
- ▶ If a person got the package, do have to review it and complete it. This is a starting point - need an ongoing committee. Worked well.
- ▶ Liked the Mobil coloured maps, locate in a high traffic area (e.g., shopping mall). Lots of community involvement.
- ▶ Maps and graphics good. Well presented.



---

**Open House hosts were asked to indicate comments received and their observations:**

**Issues/Recommendations of Greatest Interest:**

- ▶ Integration between operations.
- ▶ Return of same values as pre-disturbance.
- ▶ What was this about.
- ▶ One individual was concerned about the excessive length of time that elapsed before Syncrude or Suncor does anything with respect to reclamation.

**Satisfaction of Participants:**

- ▶ Relatively satisfied.
- ▶ NA satisfied with the buffalo fences - it is nice to look at...but can someone harvest a buffalo?
- ▶ Participants seemed to be satisfied with our presented information and with the draft recommendations.

**Problems or Occurrences:**

- ▶ Some comments made about the use of wording (i.e., "end" land use) Some suggestions made; reclaimed land use and planning and future use of reclaimed lands.

**Recommendations for Changes:**

- ▶ Reclaimed land should be returned quickly to Boreal forest...not crane lakes or bison viewing.
- ▶ Maybe we used too many words that are common to the oils sands industry, but not very common to Joe Citizen.

**Respondents were asked to comment on the Draft Recommendations**

*Baseline Information*

- ▶ End land use - misleading term - back to original vegetation
- ▶ Leave the land as close to what it was as you can - maximize use by wildlife
- ▶ Most of the disturbed areas should be turned back to original boreal forest
- ▶ Baseline ~ re: interpret old photos to an AVI standard for existing. New projects must be to AVI standards. Also look at ecotypes and succession to determine species

*Coordination*

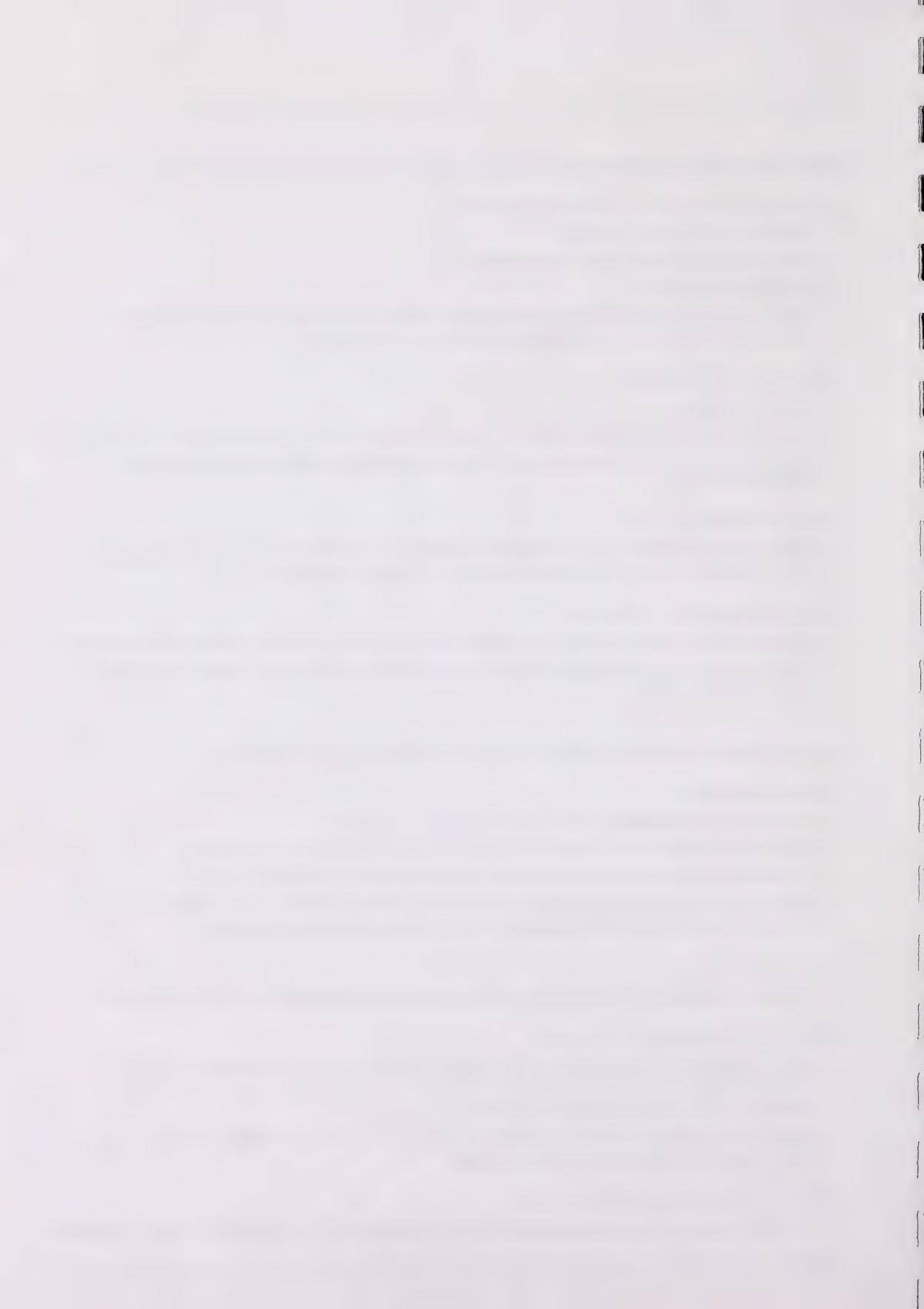
- ▶ What are the plans for the existing mines in respect to reclamation of adjoining areas?

*Land Use Categories and Allocation*

- ▶ Develop vegetative ecosystems compatible with surrounding ecosystems and able to withstand the same vigorous impacts (FIRE) and recover without further intervention
- ▶ Intensive food production? Frost and short growing season
- ▶ Section 3.4, Forestry under a successive ecosystem meets much more than "trees and logging" even supplies good buffalo habitat

*Priority for Establishing End Land Uses*

- ▶ Re-establishment of an upland boreal forest ecosystem will meet most of 4.3 and 4.4's needs



## SURVEY RESULTS

The draft recommendations survey/response form was mailed to a contact list of 163 individuals and organizations on October 7, 1997, followed by a prompt card on October 21. By the deadline of November 7, a total of 14 responses were received. The mean rating, on a four-point scale, for each recommendation is shown on the right hand side of the page. Comments received for each recommendation are also included.

### 1.0 BASELINE INFORMATION/DATA FOR END LAND USE DECISION MAKING - PRE-DISTURBANCE LAND CAPABILITY

#### 1.1 New Oil Sands Developments

N = 13 Mean = 3.5

- But need to better define the level of detail for baseline (i.e. footprint to regional)
- In a few cases, it may be determined that the end use will be different from the pre-disturbance situation, although knowledge of the baseline condition will still be of value
- Because big companies have a way of getting around doing what they are required to do and government bends for them because of the need for \$
- Existing reclamation will not establish pre-disturbance

#### 1.2 Existing Oil Sands Operations

N = 12 Mean = 3.8

- Standardization is important
- In the past all that has been done is \$ by people and the land stays as it is. The real picture - get it to where the wild things are wild again not fenced
- What does "pre-disturbance vegetation types will be converted to a standard format" mean?

#### 1.3 Existing Oil Sands Operations

N = 12 Mean = 3.7

##### - Availability and Verification of Baseline Data

- I don't understand. This has been submitted already
- This should be done now but big \$ keeps valuable information hidden - whether info is good or bad, it seems to be one big secret

### 2.0 RECLAMATION PLAN COORDINATION

#### 2.1 Regional Coordination

N = 12 Mean = 3.8

- Absolutely
- Bingo! Municipality has to be involved
- Who are the "key stakeholders?" Will the present committee play a role?
- Management by Committee? Is this a moving target with a high degree of uncertainty for industry? Do the requirements and expectations escalate over time?



- 
- Yes - but stakeholders must be listened to, not the big companies. \$ buy little time but we plan on being here for many years
  - The appropriate regulator is Alberta Environmental Protection

## 2.2 Between Industry and Regulatory Agencies

N = 12 Mean = 3.8

- Except for point 3 - the organization is not responsible for ensuring productivity .... it's the companies
- Agree, do not ask for impossible or high cost alternatives
- How is "productivity" defined and measured? If the reclaimed landscape produces more fish and wildlife but less fibre is productivity "equal to or better?"
- Idea is good, now make it work
- What do you mean by "productivity of reclaimed land equal or better than pre-disturbance conditions."
- Sufficient resources for the public sector stakeholders should be ensured

## 2.3 Evidence of Coordination

N = 12 Mean = 3.5

- I agree, but tough to regulate something that is voluntary
- Level playing field, what's good for the goose is good for the gander. Don't change rules in mid-stream
- Agree with concept but how is co-ordination measured? Does it mean more of the same? How is change and innovation recognized?
- Oil sands operators must ensure that their reclamation plans are ecologically sustainable on a local and regional basis
- This will be interesting - once you stop adding to the soil will it maintain natural growth?

# 3.0 LAND USE CATEGORIES AND ALLOCATION

## 3.1 Land Use Categories

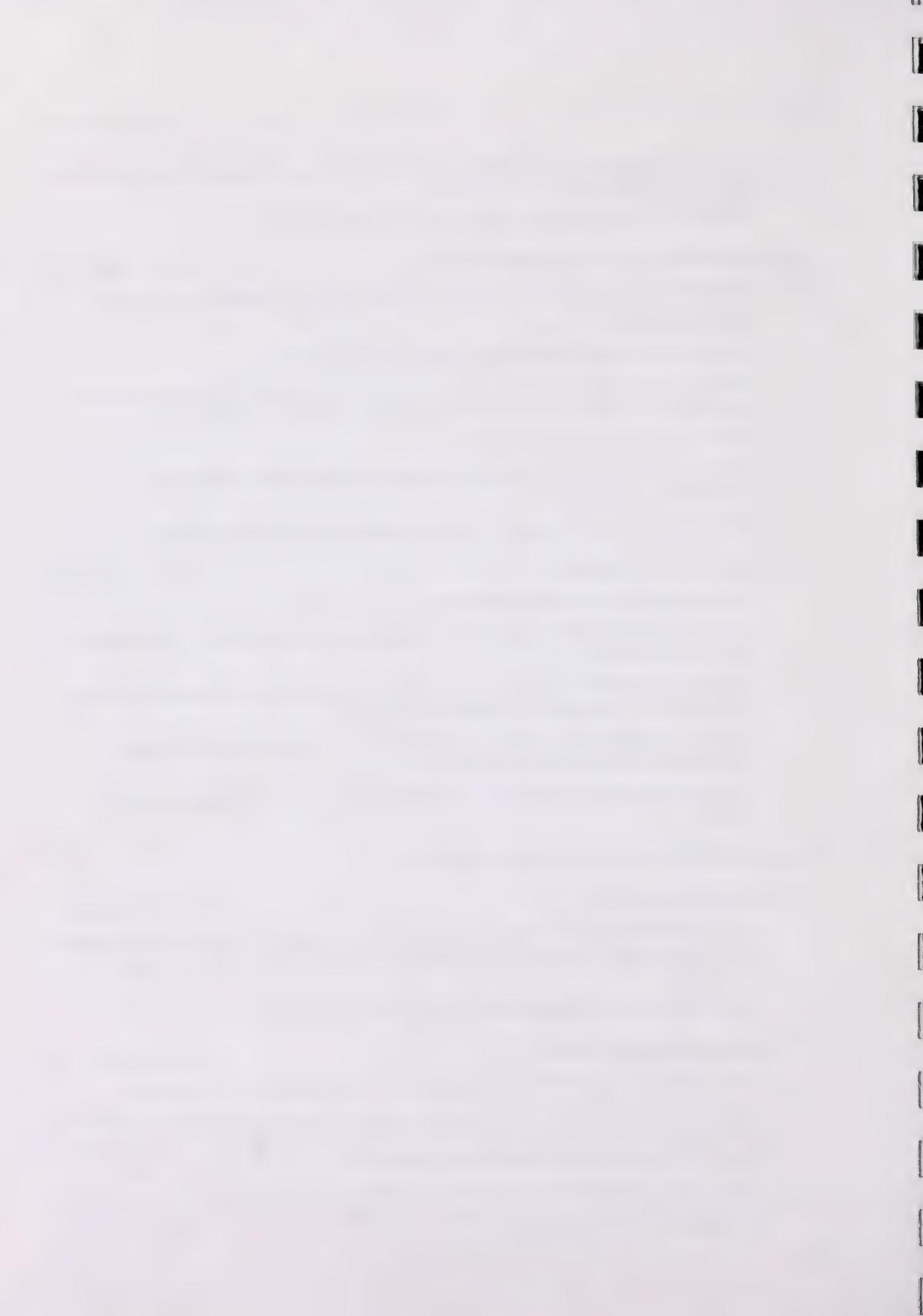
N = 12 Mean = 3.3

- Unsure what is intended - what are the multiple land uses? The end land use should not be expected to accommodate any more multiple land uses than to original landscape
- What is owned by the people should stay to the people not to a smaller group

## 3.2 Natural/Conservation Areas

N = 12 Mean = 3.9

- Again, do not ask for the impossible, we still want cheap gas and toilet paper
- Agree with the concept, but the Committee needs to recognize that the re-established landscape will continue to change over time as will its use by people. The use of the land 100 years from now could be very different than today, as values change
- Good points but natural areas are very touchy and cannot be touched or they are not natural. Sounds like you will not have fenced wildlife, this is nice to see but it has to be returned to a natural state



- 
- Recreation should not be so "extensive" as to compromise other natural/conservation area functions

### 3.3 Human Development

N = 12 Mean = 3.3

- Why would land use proposals be subject to AEPEA approval?
- I do not support costly agricultural ventures doomed to failure. Look at climate. Definitely no residential!! Cost of infrastructure prohibitive
- "Intensive uses" could include ATV "playgrounds", etc.
- Reclamation plans that accommodate human development should not be the domain of AEP alone, there should be strong municipal input.
- This is northern Alberta - turn the land back to what it should be. Not farmland. Wildlife and farmers do not mix in areas like this, study these areas.
- Consideration of limits to development based on ecological/habitat needs should be included
- Once lease is up and land reclaimed you cannot insist the developer "accept ongoing responsibility to maintain intended use!"

### 3.4 Forestry

N = 12 Mean = 3.3

- Equal productivity and equal land area means this is fixed and all other uses take "second fiddle."
- Return majority of reclaimed land to AFS (Green Zone) everything else will fall into place, without costly interference by partisan pressure groups.
- In some cases very intense forest management may make some traditional and recreational use difficult.
- What is meant by "extensive recreation?"
- If the objective is forest productivity, planting to a similar species mix as pre-disturbance is inconsistent with the objective. This seems more aligned with Natural/Conservation Areas. This whole section sends mixed messages - "I want to keep my cake and eat it too!"
- Yes, grow trees - the way they are being cut we need to grow more trees and faster.

## 4.0 PRIORITY OF ESTABLISHING LAND USES

### 4.1 Land Reclamation on a Progressive Basis

N = 12 Mean = 3.9

- Agree in principle, but this may not be possible in the re-establishment of large wetland complexes.
- This must be done because wildlife is being pushed out, this way they may come back faster.

### 4.2 Re-establishment of Pre-disturbance Land Uses

N = 11 Mean = 3.7

- Slightly in conflict with recommendation 3.4.1.
- This seems to be saying there is a need for flexibility, I couldn't agree more - values,



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needs and opinions change over time.

- As long as the people have a say on this matter I could agree.
- I am concerned that the regional body might have an over-riding authority to determine/displace pre-disturbance land use with sufficient regard for broader environmental interest.

#### *4.3 Government and Industry to Determine Impacts on Productive Forest Land*

*N = 11 Mean = 3.5*

- As development moves north and east. AOC impact will be reduced anyway.
- Could lead to intensive forest management on some reclaimed lands.
- It will be an interesting area as the forest industry has never returned any land back to how it was at the start.

#### *4.4 Replacement of Traditional Land Uses*

*N = 12 Mean = 3.3*

- Whoopee!
- In most cases "traditional land uses" will be the same for the native and non-native public (e.g. hunting, fishing, gathering).
- Not sure that this recommendation is compatible with others unless it pertains to the Natural/Conservation Areas only. Lands reclaimed with Forestry or Human Development in mind will not likely support traditional land uses.
- Good point, but all groups should be sat down with - not just these two.
- Whose opinion of successful?

#### *4.5 Impacts on Traditional Land Uses*

*N = 12 Mean = 3.3*

- But need clarification on what "relocate uses" means.
- Do not change rules in mid-stream. Traditional use means what? Will you insist on leaving oil in the ground to allow hunting? Don't be silly!!!
- Add another action. Traditional uses are "sacrificed" in exchange for other benefits from oil sands developments, this should be the option of last resort but an option, nevertheless.
- Study, plan and talk with affected groups first before the cart starts its engine.
- Industry can try to accommodate under either one of these but again, see comment 4.4.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- The recommendations appear to be well planned and fair, both to business development and environmental concerns.
- Great start and most important recommendation is a "successor body."
- Survey results not quite reflective of recommendations - for instance, respondents had bias to natural uses and less government intervention - the recommendations seem to give these less importance. Survey results, I believe, are very much representative (even with small



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number of respondents) - we are unique: population concentrated in city, so what interest would have as city dwellers - recreation, etc. That leaves forestry and traditional use for vast, land area, sparsely populated, represented by industry and small number of traditional uses.

- In general, I go along with recommendations, however, first priority should be to reclaim as fast as practicable then turn area back to forestry who in turn will manage green area quite well, without interference by politicians and pressure groups. Residential development should not be allowed, then you ask for another Fort McMurray with high infrastructure cost and resulting taxes. Split industrial tax base between two towns. Rather look at alternative of rapid transit system, light rail, monorail or other rail traffic to haul people in off hours - freight traffic, rather than bus, truck, car traffic. Again keep municipal government in the picture.
- Good work. Who was on the Committee representing environmental organizations?
- Can't understand all your big words, they don't make sense. The land should be returned to its natural state before mining. After 30 years of mining not one square inch has been turned back to crown land, or the general public's use. Syncrude Wood Buffalo Trail is a cruel joke they couldn't get trees to grow, so they made a buffalo zoo. This is not Syncrude's land, it should have been reforested and turned over to the public or other uses as promised (i.e. logging, trapping, hunting).
- Right now companies are favouring the cheapest (least cost per hectare) forms of reclamation such as pit lakes and grassland. We would like to see a higher percentage of the land returned to forest.
- Wet-capping of tailings ponds and end-pit lakes should not be accepted as an "equivalent to pre-disturbance" land use/land capability.
- In today's society, industry is a vital part of our lifestyle. These are a part of today's progress. We must be careful that if we decide to regress we are prepared to give up those lifestyle changes that have come about through progress e.g. electricity, motor vehicles, manufactured clothing and footwear, computers, major appliances to name but a few. Leaving things in their natural state, or restored as near to original, is a great "pipe dream" but we must ensure the reality of these demands and their repercussions.

## AREA OF INTEREST

- |                               |                            |                        |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| · Health/Environment (3)      | · Municipal Government (1) | · Resident/Citizen (2) |
| · First Nation/Aboriginal (1) | · Recreation (3)           | · Trapper (1)          |
| · Provincial Government (1)   |                            |                        |





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